

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending herein.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledgment of Applicants' claim of priority, consideration of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements, and allowance of claims 3-9.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takeuchi in view of the Admitted Prior Art. Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of clarity with respect to the "transfer data".

With respect to the formal rejection, Applicants' claim 1 as amended now recites "first" and "second" data transfer groups having the characteristics as further recited in claim 1. This removes any ambiguity as to the nature of the "transfer data." Applicants note that the invention of claim 1 is not limited to only first and second groups. Pursuant to the scope of "comprising," claim 1 may include other additional transfer data groups with characteristics that are identical to, overlap with, or are completely different from the first and/or second transfer data groups.

With respect to the substantive rejection, Applicants' amended claim 1 recites a first data transfer group that can be scheduled for direct memory access, and a second transfer data group which cannot be scheduled for direct memory access. Nothing in Takeuchi or the Admitted Prior Art teaches or suggests such elements, and the rationale of the Office Action fails to even address them. Applicants' amended claim 1 also recites that an in-progress direct memory access of the second transfer data group is suspended during a scheduled direct memory access of the first transfer data group. Just as the applied prior art fails to teach or suggest the first and second groups with the noted characteristics, it similarly fails to teach or suggest suspending in-progress direct memory access of the second group during a scheduled direct memory access of the first group.

Accordingly, claim 1 recites a combination of elements which is neither taught nor suggested by the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1 and allowance of the same are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 2, which depends from claim 1, was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takeuchi in view of the Admitted Prior Art, and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for informalities. In view of at least the amendments to claim 1 and the remarks advanced in favor of the same, claim 2 is likewise both definite and patentably distinct over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 and allowance of the same are therefore requested.

Claims 10 and 11 have been added to further define that which Applicants regard as their invention. Claim 10 depends from claim 1, and is therefore patentable for at least the reasons expressed with respect to claim 1. Claim 11 generally corresponds to allowed claim 3, except that various “means plus function” limitations were recited in non-means form. In view of the allowance of claim 3, claim 11 is also patentably distinct over the applied art.

The Office Action requests that Fig. 8 be amended to add the legend “Prior Art.” A replacement sheet for Fig. 8 with the requested amendment is enclosed herewith.

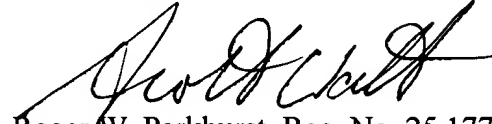
Accordingly, all claims in the application are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be appropriate, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.1113).

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Watkins", is written over the printed name.

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